



Common Definitions

Consumer means a person to whom an individual provider provides personal care or respite care services under Medicaid or state-only funds as identified in RCW 74.39A.240 (3). The consumer has the right to recruit, hire, train, supervise and fire their individual provider (worker).

Individual provider (*worker or employee*) means a person, regardless of relationship, including a personal aide working for a consumer under self directed care, who has a contract with the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) to provide personal care or respite care services to adults or children with functional or developmental disabilities and is reimbursed for those services through Medicaid or state-only funding as defined in RCW 74.39.240 (4). Individual providers (workers) are independent contractors of the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) who are paid to provide care to people who qualify under Medicaid.

Referral Registry Coordinator is the person at the Home Care Referral Registry Center responsible for the operation of the Referral Registry database.

A word about the term “caregiver”

Not everyone uses the term *caregiver*. Some people prefer another term such as *personal assistant*, *attendant*, *individual provider*, *personal aide* or *care provider*.

Home Care Referral Registry (HCRR) documents use the term *worker* because it is a commonly recognized word. You can call yourself whatever you, and your employer, prefer.

Acronyms

HCRR is the Home Care Referral Registry. The HCRR coordinates use of the Referral Registry and offers informational materials to support workers and employers.

HCQA is the Home Care Quality Authority. The HCQA is a state agency that works to improve the quality of in-home services, stabilize the individual in-home provider workforce, collaborate and provide worker and employer training opportunities and increase access to in-home services through a referral registry system.

DSHS is the Department of Social and Health Services. DSHS is responsible for the assessment of services the consumer receives, authorizes payment for the worker and sets training requirements for workers.

DDD is the Department of Developmental Disabilities. DDD authorizes services to help people with developmental disabilities stay at home.

COPES (Community Options Program Entry System) and **MPC** (Medicaid Personal Care) are two programs that DSHS may authorize to meet a consumers care needs and helps them stay at home.

AAA is the Area Agency on Aging. AAA is responsible for on-going case management for seniors and persons with a disability over 18 years of age.

HCS is Home and Community Services, a division of DSHS.

For more information about the Home Care Referral Registry*, call 1.800.970.5456

* Please call the Referral Registry to determine if Registry services are currently available in your area.